

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 02551 122146Z

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SUBJECT: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DEBATES EC AFRICA POLICY

1. DURING ITS CURRENT SESSION IN STRASBOURG THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HELD A SPECIAL ONE HOUR DEBATE MARCH 10 ON THE EC'S AFRICAN POLICY. LEAD-OFF SPEAKER WAS COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN MINISTER GASTON THORN WHO REVIEWED THE EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS' FEBRUARY 23 DECLARATION ON AFRICA POLICY (LUXEMBOURG'S 200) WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A "POSITIVE AND SOUND STEP" BY THE EC.

2. THE ENSUING DEBATE, BRIEF AND THEREFORE NOT PARTICULARLY PROBING, PERMITTED PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS TO STRESS THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

(1) STEWART (LABOR, UK) SPEAKING FOR THE SOCIALIST GROUP URGED THAT THE EC MAKE CLEAR TO RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER SMITH THAT HE SHOULD ABANDON WHITE SUPREMACY BEFORE BEING "SWEEP AWAY BY THE FORCES OF THOSE WHO ARE MORE INTERESTED IN POWER POLITICS" THAN THE WELFARE OF THE AFRICANS. FOR ITS PART, THE EC SHOULD ENFORCE SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA WITH RIGOR AND URGE OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE.

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 02551 122146Z

(2) BELUMENFELD (CDU, FRG), SPEAKING FOR THE CHRIS-

TIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP, CRITICIZED THE FRENCH FOR "DESTROYING EUROPE'S UNITED FRONT" ON ANGOLA DN WENT ON TO STRESS THAT EC SHOULD BE JUST AS CONCERNED ABOUT BLACK RACISM, AS PRACTICED BY GENERAL AMIN, AS IT IS ABOUT WHITE SUPREMACY. BLUMENFELD CRITICIZED THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DECLARATION FOR HAVING DOWNPLAYED MILITARY INTERVENTION BY THE SOVIETS IN ANGOLA, WHICH HE SAID VIOLATED THE CSCE AND HANDED THE SOVIETS AN "EASY VICTORY" WHICH WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE THEM TO UNDERTAKE ADVENTURES ELSEWHERE.

(3) WALKER-SMITH (CONS. UK), SPEAKING FOR CONSERVATIVE GROUP, ASSERTED THAT THE EC SHOULD HAVE DEMANDED WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM ANGOLA BEFORE RECOGNIZING THE MPLA. HAVING LOST THAT OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION, THE EC SHOULD NOW INSIST UPON WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS AS THE PRICE FOR EXTENDING ECONOMIC AID. WALKER-SMITH EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO MENTION OF THE US IN THE DEBATE. HE URGED THE EC TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH AND COLLABORATE WITH US EFFORTS TO OBTAIN WITHDRAWAL OF THE CUBANS AND PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF MERCENARIES INTO OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

3. AT THE CLOSE OF THE DEBATE PARLIAMENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A RESOLUTION WHICH STRESSED THE LACK OF EC UNITY ON RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA GOVERNMENT, CONDEMNED "ALL INTERFERENCE BY OTHER STATES IN AFRICA", RE-AFFIRMED THE REJECTION OF RACIST POLICIES "WHICH MAY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, RESULT IN INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE," AND STIPULATED THAT THE COMMUNITY'S APPROACH TO AFRICA SHOULD GO BEYOND STRICTLY ECONOMIC FACTORS AND BE EQUALLY GUIDED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. HINTON

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